

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0018 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0018] Another development option presently available is presented in Fig. 3. Instead of relying on a monolithic schema like schema 3, a developer may include various other, less specialized schemas, into a new schema as convenient. The result of such a process is displayed in Fig. 3. The developer of schema 7 has relied on schema 8, whose developer has relied on schema 9, who in turn has relied on schema 10 and perhaps also updated schema 9 to rely on schema 7 as well. This haphazard network of dependency does not result in ideal development efficiency, but manages to leverage some useful properties out of already developed schemas. Different developers may use different schema dependencies, as they see fit for a particular project, or develop their own data types. This practice results in often “reinventing the wheel,” which in turn produces schemas with different [[in]] properties in the place of properties that could be homogenous. The look and feel of XML data within an organization may become completely non-uniform, to fit the requirements of the non-uniform schemas. Applications to deal with such non-uniform XML will require more frequent and more drastic alteration, generating still more needless labor.

Please replace paragraph 0018 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0001] Finally, it should be understood that the various techniques described herein may be implemented in connection with hardware or software or, where appropriate, with a combination of both. Thus, the methods and apparatus of the present invention, or certain aspects or portions thereof, may take the form of program code (*i.e.*, instructions) embodied in tangible media, such as floppy diskettes, CD-ROMs, hard drives, or any other machine-readable storage medium wherein, when the program code is loaded into and executed by a machine, such as a computer, the machine becomes an apparatus for practicing the invention. In the case of program code execution on programmable computers, the computing device generally includes a processor, a storage medium readable by the processor (including volatile and non-volatile memory and/or storage elements), at least one input device, and at least one output device. One or more programs that may implement or utilize the ~~user interface techniques~~ layered schema design of the present invention, *e.g.*, through the use of a

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data processing API, reusable controls, or the like, are preferably implemented in a high level procedural or object oriented programming language to communicate with a computer system. However, the program(s) can be implemented in assembly or machine language, if desired. In any case, the language may be a compiled or interpreted language, and combined with hardware implementations.